

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-6 and 9 have been canceled.

**Rejections under section 112**

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that the errors noted by the Examiner are of the obvious sort that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to discern and correct without any difficulty. An objection would have been more appropriate than a rejection.

Claims 6 and 11 have nevertheless been amended to correct these obvious errors. Applicant respectfully submits that these corrections do not narrow the claims and therefore do not give rise to a filewrapper estoppel.

The art rejections are respectfully traversed, as explained below.

**Art rejections: Combination of Pile and Ruuskanen**

There are at least 3 types of multiplexing: time multiplexing, space multiplexing, and storage multiplexing. The present invention and Ruuskanen both relate to storage multiplexing. By contrast, as far as Applicant can tell, the Pile reference relates only to time multiplexing. Storage appears to be only after the multiplexing and selection process occurs. Accordingly, the two references are not compatible and cannot be combined.

Because the specification sets out that the invention is in a broadcast environment, one of ordinary skill in the art would automatically understand that multiple use of the same inputs in separate output streams is implied. By contrast, the Pile reference, particularly, relates only to

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time multiplexing. Thus multiple use of the same inputs in separate output streams is not possible. This makes Pile especially incompatible with the storage multiplexing environment.

Art rejections: claim 1

The Examiner has added the Pile reference, relating to the limitations introduced in the prior amendment. In addition to the arguments offered above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Pile reference is especially not compatible with the invention as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 recites K respective bit selectors each configured to read respective portions of a respective one of said K identical images. Applicant believes that the Pile reference is not compatible with such bit selection. The Pile reference outputs the entire image to the output stream. Accordingly, Applicant believes that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine Pile & Ruuskanen to achieve the claimed invention, except with reference to impermissible hindsight in light of Applicant's disclosure.

Art rejections: claim 11

Claim 11 recites a broadcast signal. Applicant respectfully submits that the Ruuskanen and Pile references are not applicable to a broadcast environment. They are from the telephone environment. A switch in the broadcast environment, as explained in the specification and as is well known in the art, must be able to support many-to-many switching. For instance, one television program must be able to be received by multiple listeners; and, in some cases, given picture-in-picture, some of the listeners must be able to get more than one program simultaneously. As those of ordinary skill in the art of broadcast switching immediately understand, ideally, the number M in the claims is much larger than the number N. The Pile

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and Ruuskanen references, being for the telephone environment, appear to be intended only for one-to-one switching, namely one call to one recipient. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Pile and Ruuskanen references cannot be combined with the admitted prior art.

## Claim 5

Claim 5 has been amended to recite an additional patentable distinction over the references, namely that pre-sorting, as required by Ruuskanen at col. 2, line 22 is not necessary. Accordingly, claim 5 now distinguishes even more clearly over the references.

## Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments could not have been made earlier as they are responsive to new arguments in the latest office action. Moreover, the amendments do not raise new issues and simplify any potential appeal. Entry is accordingly respectfully solicited.

The Examiner's other rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the foregoing. Nevertheless, Applicants reserve the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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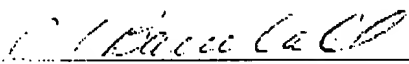
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Applicant respectfully submits that he has answered each issue raised by the Examiner and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

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